

14 May 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Records Administration Officer

SUBJECT : John F. Kennedy Library

1. The request from the Director of the JFK Library is in two parts. The first seeks our authorization to make available for academic research a large collection of unclassified clippings. The second questions the current status of 46 classified CIA documents referenced in a list that was provided to the Library in 1965.

2. FBIS has indicated that that portion of the clippings collected by FBIS and concerning Soviet and Chinese reaction to Kennedy speeches can be considered unclassified and made available for research. The Public Affairs Staff has indicated that the clippings on Cuba, originally collected by [redacted] Staff, can also be made available. However, they would consider it preferable that the Staff of the Kennedy Library not advertise the fact that these clippings were collected by the Agency. The DDI has concurred in making available both sets of clippings.

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3. A survey of the seven offices representing the originators of the 46 classified documents indicates that none of these documents has been downgraded. The DDI recommends that the Director of the Kennedy Library be informed that there is no change in the classification of these documents which are not subject to automatic downgrading. However, if any scholar who reviews the list of documents wishes to use one of them in his research, we would be pleased to review the document for possible declassification.

4. I have attached herewith a draft letter for your consideration in responding to the request from the Director of the Kennedy Library.

[redacted]

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CIA Classification Control Officer

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Dear Mr. Stewart:

Please forgive the delay in responding to your letter about CIA materials held by the John F. Kennedy Library. The nature of your request necessitated coordination among many offices.

We believe that there are actually two sets of clippings in your holdings. Both sets may be made available for academic research. Those concerning Soviet and Chinese press reaction to Kennedy speeches were collected by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service which can be identified as the government agency from which the clippings were received. Those concerning Cuba were collected elsewhere within the Agency and, although not a matter of vital importance, we would prefer that their origin not be advertised.

None of the 46 classified documents ¹⁵ ~~are~~ subject to automatic downgrading, and a survey of the originating offices indicates that none ~~has~~ have been downgraded or declassified. However, if any scholar who reviews the list of these documents wishes to use one of them in his research we would be pleased to review the document for possible declassification. The list itself may be downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL, citing this letter as authority, and shown to any reputable scholar who seems to have a reasonable "need-to-know." The list should continue to be filed in your classified collection and not be made available for copying, however.

INDEX TO ATTACHMENTS

Staff Study: Presidential Libraries and the Agency

- A. Kennedy Library - List of Document Collections Transmitted to NARS
- B. Johnson Library - List of Document Collections Transmitted to NARS
- B1. Johnson Library - Index to Document Collections Retained at Agency Records Center
- C. Criteria for Document Selection - President Johnson Library
- D. Draft (In process of publication)

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